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03/12/2014 Minutes

VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2014 MEETING
Approved 4/09/2014

Present: Joey Glushko, Mary Harrison, Elizabeth Karpati, Josh Lobel, Charlotte Milan, Brucie Moulton. Absent: Adria Arch, Brad Barber, Kathleen Bodie, Claire Carswell, Adam Chapdelaine, Joe Connelly, Dan Dunn, Andrew Fischer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Danuta Forbes, David Garbarino, Leba Heigham, Jane Howard, Gordon Jamieson, John Leone, Gail McCormick, Cheryl Miller, Angela Olszewski, Steve Ricci, Michael Stern, David White.

- The minutes of the February meeting were accepted with corrections for some dates: the deadline for survey responses is March 17, Candidates' Night is March 20.
- Vision 2020 budget request for \$5000 has been presented to Finance Committee:
- The Fin Com is not in favor of spending anything on upgraded software (request was for \$1000).
- Census survey: There are questions of who should pay for printing it if CDBG money will not be available (cost was \$2200 this year) and just what should be in it (next year maybe presenting information about the Master Plan rather than gathering information for it). Maybe the survey should be developed by a separate working group rather than the Standing Committee led by the new co-chairs.
- Basic needs of the Standing Committee: (1) Some "petty cash" to reimburse members for out-of-pocket costs like printing or supplies; (2) Tables for Town Day since the ones we used to borrow from Town Hall will no longer be available; (3) Booth fees for events like Town Day and Feast of the East; also Town Hall rental for events like Candidates' Night; (4) Unforeseen committee expenses, e.g. permit fees.
- Community Preservation Act: a surcharge on property taxes dedicated to open space/recreation, historical preservation, and affordable housing.
- It was proposed once before but rejected by Arlington voters; a majority of the Board of Selectmen at that time did not favor it, because an override was also on the ballot and the Board feared that the CPA would jeopardize a Yes vote on the override.
- Charlotte explained the provisions of the CPA and distributed an information sheet. The current CPA proposal for Arlington would be for a 1 % surcharge after exempting the first \$100,000 of a property's value. It would add an estimated \$86 to the average annual property tax bill. Any project proposed for CPA funding would have to be reviewed by a CPA committee and voted by Town Meeting. The current Board of Selectmen is in favor.
- Discussion of whether the Standing Committee should support the proposal came to the conclusion that since it is a political question the committee should limit itself to providing information, but individual members can express support. It would be helpful to have some guidelines on what is "political," i.e. when it is appropriate to support a proposal as a group. Jane Howard should be consulted about inviting the Town's legal counsel to the next meeting to discuss this question.
- Transition: A short survey has been sent to the Task Group chairs and Town leaders who are Standing Committee members. They should also be asked to ask their group how they see the role of Vision 2020 and the Standing Committee and what the S C should be doing in 10 years.
- If Joey's workload increases, Vision 2020 will need more support from others on the Town side. Perhaps the SC should meet less often than monthly, and/or have some meetings during working hours to make it easier for Town officials to attend.
- Other business:
- The October SC meeting has been moved to 10/14.
- The year-end celebration will be held June 4. The Symmes open space or the Highland fire station are possible sites.
- A law has been signed authorizing Arlington to establish an account for "purchasing, installing, and maintaining public works of art."
- Task groups: Diversity generated ideas on how Arlington can prevent injustice. The new Education group had over 20 people, mostly young, at its first meeting.